part of the Government poli*cy of Economic Liberalisation. Detai's of these items in the ITC (HS) Classification has been indicated in Export and Import Items for 1997-2002, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. Only 5 items (category) are reserved for the small scale sector, 3 of these are of daily use for common consumer leather harness, bread & glassware (domestic). Several incentives and concessions are provide*d to the small scale industries so as to improve their competitiveness. The incentives|concessions provided include excise concessions, priority sector lending, technology and ex. tension support services, reservation of SSI products and price preference for SSI products in general in the Government procurement.

Entry of MNCs in tyre industry

2083. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government gave premissions to multinational cmpanies to establish their units in the country without consulting the indigenous tyre industry;

(b) why Government has been hasty in granting permission to certain multi. national tyre companies;

(c) whether the indigenous tyre industry ftars that multinational companies with whom the indigenous tyre industry have tie-up may withdraw transfer of technology, etc. in the near future once they establish their market in India; and

(d) the steps taken by Government o safeguard the interests of the indigenous tyre industry while granting permissions to the multinational companies?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) As per the present Industrial Policy, Rubber based industries (which include tyres) are delicensed. As such, no permission or Industrial Licence (subject to locational restraints) is required for establishment of a unit in the country.

(c) and (d) No such apprehension has been brought to the notice of the Government of India.

Growth centre at Vagra

2084. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth centre at Vagra in district Bharuch of Gujarat has been completed and started functioning;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the facilities available therein;

(c) if the growth centre is not yet complete, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when it is likely to be completed and starts functioning?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Under the new Growth Centre Scheme, the Central Government's contribution to each approved growth centre is upto Rs. 10 crore, which has been fully released to the growth centre at Vagra in district Bharuch having regard to the physical and financial progress achieved in the implementation of the growth centre by the State Government. The total expenditure incurred upto 31st March, 1997 has been reported as Rs. 49.40 crore, out of which an amount of Rs. 38.45 crore has been spent on industrial infrastructure and Rs. 10.79 crore on land and site development. State Government has reported that 700 hectares of land has been acquired and also plots are ready for allotment.

Financial autonomy to profit making PSEs

2085. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give managerial and financial autonomy to profit-making public sector enterprises on the lines of 'Navaratnas'; and